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LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION 661 (1990) CONCERNING THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the annual report of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. The present report, which was adopted by the Committee on 15 February 2000, is being submitted pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(Signed) A. Peter VAN WALSUM
Chairman
Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait

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Annex

Annual report of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted to the Security Council pursuant to a note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234) by which the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait is requested to report annually to the Security Council providing a concise indication of its activities. The Committee has so far submitted three annual reports to the Security Council (S/1996/700, S/1997/672 and S/1998/1239). This report aims at presenting a factual summary of the Committee's major activities from 1 August 1998 to 20 November 1999, with necessary references to other important events and decisions.

2. The implementation of the arrangements established by resolution 986 (1995) has continued under resolutions 1153 (1998) (phase IV), 1210 (1998) (phase V) and 1242 (1999) (phase VI). By its resolution 1266 (1999) of 4 October 1999, the Security Council authorized States to permit the import of petroleum and petroleum products originating in Iraq up to an additional sum of US$ 3.04 billion for phase VI, equivalent to the total shortfall of revenues authorized but not generated under resolutions 1210 (1998) and 1153 (1998), beyond the $5.256 billion already provided for by resolution 1242 (1999). The oil-for-food arrangements provided in resolution 1242 (1999) were further extended by resolution 1275 (1999) for two more weeks, until 4 December 1999.

3. During the reporting period, the Committee submitted six reports to the Council on the implementation of the arrangements set out in paragraphs 1, 2, 6 and 8 to 10 of resolution 986 (1995) (S/1998/813 of 27 August 1998, S/1998/1104 of 20 November 1998, S/1999/279 of 12 March 1999, S/1999/582 of 18 May 1999, S/1999/907 of 24 August 1999 and S/1999/1177 of 17 November 1999).

4. Pursuant to paragraph 6, subparagraph (f), of the guidelines to facilitate full international implementation of paragraphs 24, 25 and 27 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), the Committee submitted six reports to the Council during the reporting period on matters related to arms embargo (S/1998/729, S/1998/1055, S/1999/110, S/1999/519, S/1999/848 and S/1999/1113).

5. During the reporting period, only one review of the sanctions was conducted by the Security Council, on 20 August 1998, bringing the total number of reviews to 40 pursuant to paragraph 21 of resolution 661 (1990) and 20 pursuant to paragraph 28 of resolution 687 (1991) and paragraph 6 of resolution 700 (1991). No modification of the sanctions regime resulted from the review. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1194 (1998), reviews of sanctions have been suspended since 9 September 1998.

6. The Committee elects its bureau at the beginning of each calendar year. The bureau consists of a Chairman elected in his or her personal capacity and two Vice-Chairmen designated in a delegation capacity. For 1998, the bureau consisted of António Monteiro (Portugal) as Chairman, with the delegations of Brazil and Gabon as Vice-Chairmen. For 1999, Peter van Walsum (Netherlands) serves as Chairman, with the delegations of Argentina and Gabon as Vice-Chairmen of the Committee.

II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

7. During the reporting period, the Committee dealt with a wide range of issues. From August 1998 to the end of November 1999, the Committee held 18 meetings, bringing the total number of meetings to 191 since its inception in 1990 (see appendix). In accordance with decisions taken at the Committee's 132nd and 134th meetings, the Chairman continued to give oral briefings about the work of the Committee after each meeting to interested delegations and the press.

8. The Committee also held many informal consultations at expert level to discuss various issues concerning its activities.

A. Implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995)

9. The operation under resolution 986 (1995) continued throughout the reporting period, extended successively by resolutions 1210 (1998), 1242 (1999), 1266 (1999) and 1275 (1999). The Committee continued its efforts to overcome difficulties with regard to the approval process and speeding up the delivery of humanitarian supplies to Iraq and their distribution. The Committee has submitted 12 reports to the Security Council on the oil-for-food programme, two for each phase since 10 December 1996 when the programme was first launched.

Export of petroleum and petroleum products from Iraq

10. During the period covered by the present report, the export of petroleum and petroleum products from Iraq proceeded smoothly with excellent cooperation among the oil overseers, the United Nations independent inspection agents (Saybolt), the State Oil Marketing Organization of Iraq and national oil purchasers.

11. By 20 November 1999 there were 428 national oil purchasers, nominated from 63 countries, who were authorized to communicate directly with the oil overseers according to paragraph 2 of the procedures of the Committee (S/1996/636).

12. In the period covered by the present report, a total of 190 oil contracts were received and reviewed by the oil overseers; 752 liftings with a volume of 968.5 million barrels were made, and the revenue generated amounted to $13.580 billion.

13. During the reporting period, the oil overseers continued to advise the Committee on oil prices, volumes, liftings, destinations, management of the revenue objective and other pertinent questions related to the monitoring of petroleum exports from Iraq in accordance with the provisions of resolutions 986 (1995), 1153 (1998), 1158 (1998), 1210 (1998), 1242 (1999), 1266 (1999) and 1275 (1999).

14. Pursuant to paragraph 14 of the procedures of the Committee, the overseers continued to report to the Committee once a week on the contracts considered by them regarding the sale of petroleum originating in Iraq, including the cumulative quantity and approximate value of petroleum authorized for export.

As at the end of the reporting period, 155 such reports have been submitted to the Committee.

15. As from the second half of phase V, the increase in the total level of exports led to an increase in the share of crude oil exported from Mina al-Bakr. The Committee took note of this temporary situation on 22 April 1999 in a note from the Chairman (S/AC.25/1999/CN/15) and again on 12 November 1999 (S/AC.25/1999/CN/52), on the understanding that the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline would be used to its maximum capacity and that all efforts would be taken to correct the imbalance without delay. The situation remains unchanged to date and the Committee will keep this situation constantly under review.

16. As from 1 July 1999 there is just one oil overseer on duty and the situation remains unchanged. The hard work of the overseer is appreciated by the members of the Committee, which will continue to work towards filling the vacancies in the overseer team as provided for in paragraph 1 of the Committee's procedures (S/1995/636).

Efforts by the Committee to expedite humanitarian deliveries and related matters

17. During the reporting period, the Committee continued to attach priority to the work of processing contracts submitted under the oil-for-food programme from the middle of phase IV to the end of phase VI.

18. The Committee continued implementing the simplified procedure that was adopted at the beginning of phase IV with regard to applications for foodstuffs.

19. During the reporting period, members of the Committee considered a report prepared by the Office of the Iraq Programme concerning applications submitted for the 53 per cent account under Security Council resolution 986 (1995), which included contractual clauses providing for payment to be authorized other than by the United Nations (so-called "retention clauses"). There was agreement among members of the Committee that the deletion of those payment clauses would be required to bring the applications into conformity with Committee procedures before circulation to the Committee. In the second half of phase VI, over 100 contracts were amended to delete the clauses, and were then circulated to the Committee for action. The issue of other payment clauses, such as deferred automatic payments or counter guarantees, is still before the Committee. Subsequently, applications for contracts containing this type of clause have been circulated to the Committee without amendment.

20. The Committee has focused particularly on the question of holds on humanitarian contracts that include oil spare parts and equipment. Members of the Committee continued to express concerns about the effect of the holds on the humanitarian situation in Iraq. During the reporting period, members of the Committee heard a number of briefings by the Office of the Iraq Programme and the representatives of Saybolt Nederland BV, the United Nations independent agents, on their observation mechanisms and on holds, and the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq on the humanitarian situation in Iraq.

21. Members of the Committee reviewed the situation with regard to the level of stock in central medical warehouses. It was reported that the reasons for the

stock of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and medical equipment are multiple and complex. The Committee will keep the situation under review.

22. To simplify the processing of contracts for sending humanitarian supplies to Iraq, the Committee revised, early in September 1999, the Guidance on the completion of requests and notifications to ship goods to Iraq. The new guidance includes provisions for submitting applications in electronic format.

23. The issue of reimbursement of the 53 per cent account from the 13 per cent account for joint purchases continues to be a concern for the Committee and the Secretariat. On the basis of a proposal by the Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme, the Committee has considered the issue on a number of occasions and no consensus has been reached. As at 20 November 1999, the accumulated reimbursable balance totalled $230 million.

24. During the reporting period, members of the Committee considered a letter from the Under-Secretary-General for Management concerning the transfer of 1 per cent of the oil sales proceeds from the escrow account established under resolution 986 (1995) for the payment envisaged in paragraph 6 of resolution 778 (1992), as provided in paragraph 8 (g) of resolution 986 (1995). There was general agreement among members of the Committee that the amount for that purpose should be $10 million every 90 days, as specified in paragraph 8 (g) of resolution 986 (1995). A letter to that effect was sent to the Under-Secretary-General for Management on 14 May 1999.

25. Members of the Committee considered two reports of the Board of Auditors on the audit of the United Nations escrow account (the Iraq account). In a letter dated 26 July 1999 addressed to the Secretary-General, who forwarded the reports to the Committee, the Committee expressed its concern with regard to the absence of specific audits of the operations of United Nations implementing agencies under resolution 986 (1995). The Committee would welcome future reporting on management audits of activities of the agencies related to resolution 986 (1995). The Chairman of the Committee received a letter dated 12 November 1999 from the Under-Secretary-General for Management with regard to the management of the United Nations Iraq account.

Humanitarian supplies to Iraq under the oil-for-food programme

26. During the period covered by this report the Secretariat has received 2,657 applications, of which 60 were subsequently cancelled, 2,245 were circulated to the Committee and 352 were under evaluation or remained to be processed by the Secretariat. Of the 2,245 circulated for action, 1,835 were approved, totalling approximately $3.4 billion, including 278 applications worth approximately $680 million released from previous holds; 358 were placed on hold, with a total value of $872.2 million; and 52, with a value of $76.3 million, were awaiting decisions of the Committee. In the same period, the Committee also approved applications worth approximately $300 million for purchases for the United Nations inter-agency humanitarian programmes operating in the northern part of Iraq.

27. The arrival of humanitarian goods is verified and confirmed by the United Nations independent inspection agents (Lloyd's Register until 31 January 1999

and Cotecna from 1 February 1999) at four entry points: the port of Umm Qasr, Trebil on the Iraqi-Jordanian border, Al-Walid on the Iraqi-Syrian border and Zakho on the Iraqi-Turkish border. In the period covered by the present report, a total of 2,340 approved consignments were confirmed as having arrived in Iraq in full and 1,534 consignments were confirmed as having arrived in Iraq in partial shipments. As in previous phases, the Iraqi authorities have accorded the independent agents full cooperation in their work.

28. The Committee remains fully committed to implementing its mandate with regard to the export of humanitarian supplies to Iraq under the oil-for-food programme and will continue its efforts for the purpose of further improving the approval process and enhancing the timely delivery of humanitarian supplies to Iraq. In accordance with the recommendations contained in the letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council dated 22 October 1999 (S/1999/1086), members of the Committee will continue the practice of keeping under review those humanitarian contracts that have been placed on hold. The Office of the Iraq Programme briefed the Committee on its efforts to seek more complete information on contracts submitted to the Committee to ensure their timely processing.

Matters related to the supply of oil equipment and spare parts to Iraq

29. By its resolution 1175 (1998) of 19 June 1998, the Security Council authorized States to permit, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 661 (1990), the export to Iraq of the necessary parts and equipment to enable Iraq to increase the export of petroleum and petroleum products, in quantities sufficient to produce the sum of $5.256 billion as provided by resolution 1153 (1998). Also in resolution 1175 (1998), the Council decided that up to a total of $300 million in the escrow account produced pursuant to resolution 1153 (1998) might be used to meet any reasonable expenses in that respect. That arrangement is reaffirmed by paragraph 8 of resolution 1210 (1998) and by paragraph 8 of resolution 1242 (1999).

30. On 29 December 1998 the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council a detailed list of parts and equipment necessary for the purpose described in paragraph 1 of resolution 1175 (1998) (see S/1998/1233). In July 1999, the Secretary-General submitted another list to the Security Council (see S/1999/746), together with the report of the group of experts on the general situation of the oil industry of Iraq. In a letter dated 12 October 1999 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/1053), the Secretary-General recommended an increase of $300 million in the allocation for oil spare parts and equipment.

31. The Committee has discussed ways to improve the approval process for contracts for sending oil spare parts and equipment to Iraq in accordance with existing procedures. The Committee held a number of informal consultations at the expert level to discuss intensively the issue of oil spare parts, the impact of holds on such contracts and the monitoring of oil spare parts in Iraq. To facilitate its work, the Committee also invited, on three occasions in January, July and October 1999 respectively, the oil experts from Saybolt Nederland BV, the United Nations independent agents monitoring Iraq's oil export under

resolution 986 (1995), to brief members of the Committee on the need for Iraq to import spare parts and equipment necessary to increase its oil output.

32. By 20 November 1999, the Secretariat had received from 42 States 1,401 applications for exporting oil spare parts to Iraq, of which 45 were subsequently withdrawn and 1,156 were circulated to the Committee for consideration; 800 contracts with a value of approximately $401 million were subsequently approved, including 256 applications worth approximately $172 million released from previous holds; 318 contracts with a value of $167.8 million were placed on hold, and 38 contracts with a value of $21.8 million were awaiting the decision of the Committee; 105 applications with a value of $87.2 million were still under evaluation by Secretariat experts, while 95 with a value of $180.5 million remained to be processed.

33. The Committee intends to continue the practice of keeping under review those contracts for oil parts and equipment that have been placed on hold along the lines of the letter dated 22 October 1999 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/1086) and the letter dated 8 November 1999 from the Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme to the Chairman of the Committee on the same question.

B. Humanitarian exemptions under resolution 661 (1990)

34. During the period covered by the present report, the Committee continued to receive and process other notifications and applications to send humanitarian goods to Iraq submitted under resolutions 661 (1990) and 687 (1991); the number of notifications or applications received from States and international organizations was 6,070. The Committee acknowledged receipt of all 98 foodstuff notifications and took note of 46 voluntary notifications for medical supplies to Iraq, which had an estimated combined value of $254,039,345. Under its "no-objection" procedure, the Committee processed all remaining 5,926 applications concerning the supply of other categories of goods to Iraq. Some 2,654 of these requests, with an estimated value of $4,413,446,701, were approved; 427 with an estimated value of $7,623,378,005 were placed on hold for further information and/or clarification; 2,823 applications with a value of $24,892,308,758 were blocked; and 22 applications with a value of $6,715,325 were withdrawn or nullified. Discussions have been held to improve the procedures in that respect.

C. The Hajj

35. The Committee remained actively seized of issues concerning the Hajj following the adoption of resolution 1153 (1998), by paragraph 3 of which the Committee is directed to authorize, on the basis of specific requests, reasonable expenses related to the Hajj pilgrimage, to be met by funds in the escrow account. At its 174th meeting, on 1 September 1998, the Committee decided to convene an informal meeting of experts on practical arrangements to facilitate the performance of the Hajj. At its 178th meeting, on 11 January 1999, the Committee agreed to a proposal that the Chairman would meet with the representative of Iraq to discuss the matter. It was further decided

that a non-paper would be prepared by the Secretariat on this subject to facilitate a discussion of the issue at the expert level of the Committee.

36. At its 179th meeting, on 24 February 1999, the Committee discussed primarily questions concerning the Hajj. The Chairman informed the Committee that at the expert consultations held on 17 February, a two-way approach had been conceived: first, a letter would be sent to Iraq concerning alternative ways to facilitate the participation of Iraqi pilgrims in the Hajj and, secondly, the Chairman would meet with the Ambassador of Iraq to discuss the matter, including the idea of third-party involvement in assisting with Hajj arrangements. Since the Hajj pilgrimage was to start soon, members of the Committee expressed the hope that the issue would be resolved as soon as possible. The Committee also took note of a suggestion made by the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq during a briefing that viable third parties could be involved in making the necessary arrangements.

37. During the 180th meeting, on 24 February 1999, the Chairman briefed the members on his meeting with the Ambassador of Iraq. He also informed the Committee that he was waiting for a response from the Government of Iraq regarding third-party involvement in Hajj arrangements. The Committee continued its consideration of this matter at its 181st meeting, on 8 March. The Chairman drew attention to a letter dated 2 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq, in which the latter insisted that funds for the Hajj be made directly available to Iraq. The Permanent Representative of Iraq also requested that he should be invited to appear before the Committee so that he could explain his Government's views on the subject. No consensus was reached on the Iraqi request. The Chairman also informed members that he had met with the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia, who had presented a paper on the Hajj, in which a possible solution to the ongoing problem of arrangements for the Hajj was proposed. Members suggested that the Chairman should meet with the Permanent Representatives of Saudi Arabia and Iraq to ascertain if the Saudi Arabian proposal would be helpful in reaching a solution to the problem.

38. At the 183rd meeting, on 16 March 1999, the Chairman informed the Committee that the Permanent Representative of Iraq had confirmed that there would be no further communication from Iraq on this question as Iraq did not agree with the Committee's suggestions. The Chairman briefed the press on the outcome of the Committee's discussion, taking into account the various views of the members of the Committee.

D. Flights

39. The Committee received seven communications concerning humanitarian flights to Iraq during the reporting period, one for medical evacuation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), four for sending humanitarian supplies to Iraq (Cyprus, United Arab Emirates and Russian Federation) and two for transporting other personnel to Iraq (Austria and Venezuela). The Committee responded positively to the medical evacuation and humanitarian supply flights and responded to communications concerning the two flights taking foreign personnel to Iraq.

40. Inspections were conducted at the Committee's request by designated United Nations personnel on all flights that arrived in Iraq. Reports on the inspections were forwarded to the Committee for the information of Committee members.

41. At its 174th meeting, on 1 September 1998, the Committee considered a request from the United Arab Emirates to authorize weekly flights to Baghdad, and reiterated its position on previous requests of a similar nature, namely, that it was unable to grant a blanket approval for regular flights to Iraq.

E. Financial matters

42. At its 178th meeting, on 11 January 1999, the Committee reviewed a communication from Lebanon which provided evidence, as requested by the Committee, that the accounts held by Lebanese depositors at the Rafidain Bank in Beirut did in fact belong to Lebanese nationals and companies. Further consideration was also given to the Lebanese request to release the funds to the depositors. Some members stressed that the matter should be dealt with bilaterally, while others maintained that the matter was within the purview of the Committee. The request was considered a number of times and, at its 187th meeting, on 25 June 1999, the Committee agreed that a letter from the Chairman should be addressed to the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to inform him that the Committee was not in a position to approve the release of funds as requested.

43. At its 186th meeting, on 27 May 1999, the Committee considered a communication from the Danish Agency for Trade and Industry, which had been requested by the Iraqi Embassy in Stockholm to reactivate its frozen account in a Danish bank in order to cover the administrative expenses of the Embassy. The Committee recognized the need for Iraqi diplomatic missions to meet their operating and administrative costs but was not in a position to authorize the unfreezing of Iraqi accounts as such, noting that further clarification as to why funds had to be moved from Denmark to Sweden would be needed. The Danish communication was subsequently withdrawn.

44. At its 189th meeting, on 24 August 1999, the Committee considered a letter from Bahrain requesting the Committee's advice with regard to the release of funds of Yemeni citizens with Al-Rafadeen Bank. The question was taken up again by the Committee upon receipt of further clarification from Bahrain on 21 October in response to the Committee's questions. On 4 November, the Committee sent a letter to Bahrain informing it that the Committee had no objection to the release of funds as described, provided that the financial assets once released would not be made available directly or indirectly to any Iraqi citizens or entities.

45. At its 190th meeting, on 12 October 1999, the Committee considered a communication from the Government of Denmark, which had been requested by a Danish company to ascertain whether it was permissible for it to invest in a project in which Iraq had a 5 per cent minority share. The Committee decided that the request should be granted, provided that any profits generated be placed in a frozen account.

F. Air travel to and from Baghdad for diplomats and their families

46. As described in its previous report, the request from the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Baghdad to ease restriction on air travel to and from Baghdad for diplomats and their families has remained constantly on the Committee's agenda. At the 178th meeting, on 11 January 1999, members of the Committee considered a further communication from the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Baghdad which, in a response to the Committee's earlier query, outlined a number of suggestions for solving the problem. During discussions, the use of United Nations aircraft for the purpose of transporting diplomats stationed in Baghdad was suggested and for that purpose the Chairman was requested to discuss the matter with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

47. On 8 March 1999, at the 181st meeting, the Chairman briefed members on his meeting with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and informed the Committee that the United Nations flights to Baghdad had not been operating since December 1998. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Baghdad to the effect that the Committee remained actively seized of the matter.

48. The Committee took up this question briefly a number of times thereafter while awaiting further responses from the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Baghdad. The Committee received a communication dated 27 October 1999 from the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Baghdad which outlined a new proposal based on the understanding of the diplomatic community in Iraq. The Committee will consider the new proposal in the near future.

G. Passenger shipping services

49. At its 175th and 176th meetings, on 30 October and 1 December 1998, the Committee addressed the question, raised by the United Arab Emirates, whether "personal effects", in relation to its passenger shipping service to and from Iraq, would include private vehicles. The Committee was inclined to consider favourably the movement of vehicles but refrained from defining the phrase "personal effects". On the basis of the additional clarification provided by the United Arab Emirates as requested by some members, the Committee was able to approve the request of the United Arab Emirates at its 178th meeting, on 11 January 1999.

50. At its 187th meeting, on 25 June 1999, the Committee considered a communication from Iraq in which Iraq requested to have the Iraqi vessel Al-Bahr al-Arabi towed out of the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates to the port of Umm Qasr. The relocation of the vessel was deemed necessary by Iraq because of the vessel's deteriorating condition which could, it was stressed, be detrimental to the environment. The Committee decided to seek the comments of the United Arab Emirates on the matter. At its 190th meeting, on 12 October 1999, the Committee took up the issue again, upon receipt of additional information from the United Arab Emirates, which stated that nothing in the vessel had the capacity to pose any potential environmental threat to the surrounding Gulf region. The Committee then decided that it was unable to grant

the release of the Iraqi vessel Al-Bahr al-Arabi from the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates.

51. At its 189th meeting, on 24 August 1999, the Committee considered a communication from the United Arab Emirates regarding a request made by Naif Marine Services Co. to transport pilgrims from Bahrain and Qatar who wished to visit the holy places in Iraq. The Committee decided to contact the countries involved in the project in order to clarify certain logistical and organizational aspects.

52. The question was considered again at the 190th meeting, on 12 October 1999. On the basis of the additional information provided by Bahrain, the Committee was able to approve the operation of the ferry service for Bahrain.

H. Other matters

Request by Turkey

53. Turkey's request to resume the import of petroleum and petroleum products from Iraq for domestic purposes, evoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations in view of the serious economic difficulties Turkey considers it has suffered as a result of the sanctions against Iraq, has remained on the Committee's agenda for the last three years. In view of new developments in the situation since August 1996, when the request was first introduced, at the Committee's request, Turkey submitted a follow-up communication in April 1999 with updated information. The Committee has taken up the issue many times without reaching a decision and it has been repeatedly deferred. The Committee also received a communication from France on 25 August 1999 suggesting that the Permanent Representative of Turkey be invited to a Committee meeting to present his views on the matter. There was no consensus on the suggestion.

Participation of Iraq in Committee meetings

54. At its 186th meeting, on 27 May 1999, the Committee considered a request from Iraq to be granted access to Committee summary records and to be invited to formal meetings of the Committee when matters were discussed on which Iraq's opinion might be needed. The Committee agreed not to give Iraq free access to its summary records with limited circulation. With regard to the question of inviting Iraq to formal meetings, there was no consensus in the Committee. However, the possibility of extending to Iraq, on a case-by-case basis as necessary, invitations to the Committee's formal meetings was proposed. At the 189th meeting, on 24 August 1999, the issue of Iraq's participation in Committee meetings was again raised.

Participation of United Nations agencies in Committee meetings

55. At its 190th meeting, on 12 October 1999, the Committee considered a proposal by France to invite UNICEF and other United Nations agencies to brief the Committee about the humanitarian situation in Iraq. The Committee agreed to extend an invitation to the Executive Director of UNICEF, who subsequently

briefed the members of the Security Council. The Committee will consider further briefings by other United Nations agencies on a case-by-case basis.

Activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency

56. At the 181st meeting, on 8 March 1999, the members of the Committee considered a request from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for clearance for seven new technical projects in Iraq. It was decided that further information on monitoring and the dual-use nature of the items would be required before the projects could be acceded to. At its 186th meeting, on 27 May 1999, the Committee approved the IAEA request to implement the seven technical projects in Iraq, subject to the Agency's ensuring that the projects were implemented together with appropriate monitoring mechanisms.

57. During its 189th meeting, on 24 August 1999, the Committee considered a communication from IAEA in which the Committee was requested to advise whether the Agency could dispatch a fact-finding mission to Iraq, at the request of the latter, to gather data on possible radioactive residues resulting from depleted uranium ammunition. The Committee concluded that the matter did not fall within the purview of the Committee, unless IAEA wanted to import equipment submitted to the sanctions regime for the purpose of such a mission. A response to that effect was made to IAEA.

Aerial pesticide campaign

58. At its 180th meeting, on 26 February 1999, the Committee considered a communication from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) requesting approval for its aerial spraying of pesticides in Iraq for 1999. The Committee agreed in principle to the request, but stressed that the pesticide activities should be carried out in compliance with the procedures established by the Committee for that purpose and that all dual-use items being shipped into Iraq to help implement the pesticide campaign should be submitted for the Committee's consideration on a case-by-case basis.

59. On 3 June 1999, FAO submitted to the Committee its final report on its aerial spraying of pesticides in Iraq.

I. Monitoring arrangement and reported violations

60. At its 174th meeting, on 1 September 1998, the Committee, under "other matters", requested its Chairman to raise with the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran the reported smuggling of Iraqi oil through Iranian waters. The issue was raised in connection with a report received from the Multinational Interception Force operating in the Gulf region, which highlighted that the Force continued to be successful in curtailing the import of prohibited items into Iraq. At the 175th meeting, on 28 October 1998, the Chairman informed the Committee that he had met with the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the subject, who had promised to report back to his authorities. The Committee awaits a response from the Permanent Representative.

61. At its 184th meeting, on 18 March 1999, the Committee considered urgently a communication from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia regarding the detention on 17 March at Jeddah international airport of an Iraqi aircraft, which had been used to transport Iraqi pilgrims to perform their religious duties during the Hajj. The communication indicated that the Saudi authorities intended to allow the aircraft to return to Iraq without its passengers unless it received an immediate response from the Committee to the contrary. There was no consensus in the Committee and it was decided that the Chairman would so inform the Saudi Arabian authorities and thank them for bringing the matter to the Committee's attention.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

62. The Committee reaffirms its commitment to continue working closely with the Secretary-General and the Office of the Iraq Programme to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme.

63. The Committee will continue its effort to address the humanitarian situation in Iraq and other related issues within the framework of relevant Security Council resolutions. The Committee wishes to express its appreciation for the consistent support and cooperation it has received from Member States, international organizations and the United Nations Secretariat in carrying out the tasks entrusted to it by the Security Council.

Appendix

Dates of Committee meetings held between 1 August 1998 and 20 November 1999

Meeting	Date
174th	1 September 1998
175th	30 September 1998
176th	1 December 1998
177th	22 December 1998
178th	11 January 1999
179th	23 February 1999
180th	26 February 1999
181st	8 March 1999
182nd	12 March 1999
183rd	16 March 1999
184th	17 March 1999
185th	22 April 1999
186th	27 May 1999
187th	25 June 1999
188th	6 July 1999
189th	24 August 1999
190th	12 October 1999
191st	27 October 1999